SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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Cont Copy

editorial

from pillar to post

THE situation in Indochina is extremely serious. Since early February, the US-puppets have fielded a big Saigon troop-strength supported by American artillery and air force in a large-scale invasion of Laos. Under direct US command, Operation Lam Son 719 *has been spreading deep into the liberated zone of that country with untold attendant crimes against the fraternal Lao people.*

At the same time, at US instigation and with US all-round air support, troops of the Saigon regime have been carrying out a terror campaign dubbed Total Victory *in the free territory of Cambodia.*

In South Viet Nam, pushing up "special pacification," the Americans and their hirelings have mounted many sweeps, the largest of which in Quang Tri province codenamed Dewey Canyon 2 *involved about ten thousand US and puppet soldiers.*

In North Viet Nam, they have been stepping up bombings and toxic-chemical sprayings over several populated areas, particularly in the southernmost part of the country. They have been even massing troops South of the 17th parallel for fresh war actions against the DRVN.

No doubt, the US imperialists are escalating the war throughout Indochina. The Nixon Administration has thrown additional light on its true colours as warmongers and vicious aggressors. As to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, their own military adventures have again bared them as traitors to their people and an instrument for US aggression against their own country, against Cambodia and Laos where their mercenaries have been sent to die in the place of Americans.

THE Nixon Administration and its valets in Saigon are striving to justify their war escalation with quibbles about its nature and goal. They deny the presence of American troops in their Cambodia and Lao operations, and assert that these are of "protective" character, not invasions, not extensions of hostilities, and that they are aimed at "shortening the war," at "ensuring the rapid withdrawal of US troops!" To date, reality on the battlefields has however given the lie to their equivocations. Facts have pointed unmistakably to the participation of tremendous air and artillery forces in both Cambodia and Laos; Saigon troops have been accompanied there by American "advisers." Western news agencies have reported the presence of American troops in mercenary soldiers' uniforms in Laos. Haven't such facts been enough to show that the present invasion bears the US stamp? Hasn't the strategic formula now put into effect — mercenary ground troops + US artillery and air force — been elaborated by the Pentagon? Though carried out by puppet troops, the said operations are masterminded by the US and serve US purposes. Puppet troops are not American only from the physical point of view. They were spawned by the Americans, they are maintained, equipped, trained and commanded by the Americans. All their activities are intended to further US schemes. The invasion of Laos, announced by Nguyen Van Thieu, has been ordered by Nixon. Its plan, worked out toward the beginning of this dry season, was put forward by the US which also has been supervising its execution. And its objective, said to "cut the supply route" or strike at the liberated zone in Laos, is to help achieve the US aggressive design. Therefore, the use of puppet troops in the aggressions against Laos and Cambodia cannot conceal the cloven hoof of the US aggressors. It only sheds a lurid light on the viciousness, craftiness and cruelty of Nixon's so-called Asian doctrine, of which "Vietnamization of the war" constitutes the pivotal measure. Nixon has shown himself as one who strives to train and equip puppet troops under the "Vietnamization" program for prolonging the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and widening it to the whole Indochina. As to his doctrine, it is just a policy to play off Asians against Asians and Indochinese against Indochinese. Nixon's February 17 statement has supplied fresh evidence of his wicked intention to intensify the war in all Indochina. Such a state of things prompts these questions: Is the US strong or weak? Is it winning or losing? The American aggressors boast they are winning and find themselves in such a strong posture that they can content themselves with a "supporting" role in the hostilities on this peninsula.

OF course, nobody can prevent Nixon and company from bragging since bragging has always been the fort of imperialists of every plumage and their agents. But the more they do so, the more transparent become their weak and losing position, their passivity and perplexity. Does it make sense to say that the US aggressors' posture is a strong one since, for about ten years, they have been gliding deeper and deeper into a tunnel with no end in sight and when they have had to carry on a war so long and costly in terms of manpower and material resources without being able to realize their predatory ends, namely, turning South Viet Nam and the whole of Indochina into an American military base and neo-colony? Does it make sense to say that the United States has got the upper hand when it has had successively to change its war strategies from "special warfare" through "limited warfare" to "Vietnamization," from "search and destroy" through "pacification" to "clear and hold"? If it were feasible for the US to swallow up South Viet Nam, why should it have found it necessary to "Vietnamize" the war? And if "Vietnamization" of the "American war" had evolved more favourably than never before, as Nixon claims, why should the US have had to invade Cambodia in May 1970? This move was described by the White House boss as an operation to salvage "Vietnamization" besides its main goal, i.e., the shoring up of the Lon Nol regime. Everybody, however, is aware of the stubborn facts: the US imperialists thereby invited new setbacks and, instead of extracting themselves from the "Vietnamization" mire, they have got involved deeper in another one—the war of aggression against Cambodia. And not willing to draw relevant lessons from their disastrous war escalation, at the start of this dry season they expanded it to Laos while committing graver war crimes in South Viet Nam, and pushing up the aggression against Cambodia and adventurous acts of war against the DRVN. The bitter reality in the past few weeks has glared into the face of the US invaders. To everyone's knowledge, their plan was and still is to occupy Tchepone, then from here push toward Seno, and beyond, if possible, so as to cut Indochina in two. But thus far they have advanced no more than 25 km or an average of a little over 1 km a day. They lay the blame for this hitch on weather conditions which, however unfavourable, cannot conceivably impede the march of a mercenary army equipped by the United States with modern weapons. Didn't American planes fly more than 1,100 missions in bad weather? What has then hindered the US-Saigon invading troops' march ahead? The biggest and insurmountable trouble for the aggressor lies precisely in the stupendous and devastating stamina of the armed forces and people of Southern Laos, something that has damped the American and Saigon infantry's aggressiveness, and struck fear into the American pilots' hearts. On top of this, on the battlefield of North Quang Tri—the starting point of the operation—our people and armed forces have been in a series of perfect coordinated actions with their Lao counterparts, destroying sizeable enemy manpower and armour, and downing a large number of aircraft.

(Continued on page 1)

TEN YEARS OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND SPLENDID SUCCESS

Mme NGUYEN THI DINH
Deputy Commander-in-Chief,
SVN People's Liberation Armed Forces

(Concluded)

Second, grasp the lines and guiding principles of combat, and the military art of people's war, incessantly devise tactical methods with ever higher efficiency.

Through the various stages of the liberation war, our fighting methods have been constantly improved and new ones have been contrived. In all battlefields and regions all the three kinds of armed forces have grown up; they have applied new tactical methods against the enemy, and have without let-up raised their fighting efficiency for greater successes.

The strength and high efficiency of our combat methods lies in the full scope given to the political and moral superiority of our revolutionary army and in the exhaustive use of all our forces, which forces our enemy to fight battles of our own choice, thereby preventing him from taking advantage of his relative superiority in troop build-up, fire power and mobility. We resort to a combination of many fighting and operational methods and a coordination between various battlefields, between the categories of armed forces and between guerilla and big-unit warfares. We can deploy our forces in a versatile way in combat and in operations, combining closely small-unit, medium-unit and big-unit tactics, now concentrating our forces so as to secure supremacy in troop strength, now using a small force to defeat a bigger adverse one, now again applying both methods in a skilful manner. That is why in all circumstances, the PLAF succeed in achieving a victorious fighting efficiency superior to the enemy's. We spring surprise attacks, we deal hard and staggering blows at the enemy, we hit them both from within and without; we wipe out enemy manpower while assaulting their nerve centres and removing cruel thugs; we shatter the enemy coercive machinery while destroying their logistic depots and war materials.

As we have rightly followed the guiding principle of combining the "two aspects," "three spearheads," "three zones," our PLAF combat methods have developed to the fullest the fortes of each one of the three kinds of armed forces and of all military branches, thereby generating an aggregate offensive strength which completely baffles the enemy. Such combat methods on the one hand put out of action a considerable amount of enemy forces, on the other frustrate all their tactical and operational manœuvres. They give full scope to our posture of relentless offensive and contribute to further increase our strategic superiority which portends still bigger victories.

As a direct contribution to the foiling of the US-puppet "Vietnamization" program, the PLAF taking into account of the change of enemy methods and operational tactics of the battlefronts as well as of the requirements of the revolutionary war, incessantly raise and develop their own art of offensive. In this way only can we make the most of our strength by mounting repeated assaults against the US-puppet defence system both in towns and countryside, in the delta and the highlands, driving them farther into a tight corner. Also in this way only can we give full play to our combat methods in successfully resisting the enemy's atrocious and crafty "pacification" and in demolishing big chunks of the US-puppet oppressive apparatus, thereby effectively helping our countrymen rise up and wrest back control. On the one hand, we continually better the combat efficiency of all the three kinds of armed forces and push up our guerilla warfare so as to coordinate action with our compatriots in thwarting all enemy rural "pacification" plans, and on the other hand, we heighten the level of "concerted operation" of the main force units in fighting big-unit engagements to wipe out considerable enemy forces and war materials. We must pay due attention to stepping up offensives through agitation work among the US and puppet troops so as to disrupt their ranks and weaken them; at the same time we must baffle all combat tactics and the "special pacification" program of the enemy step by step, and finally defeat them completely.

Third, combine closely the fighting with the building of our own forces, for ever bigger gains and ever more rapid growth in the process.

We should always grasp and creatively apply this law of South Viet Nam's revolutionary war: "A protracted war, for ever bigger successes and more rapid growth as the fighting progresses." To this end the PLAF must strive to closely combine combat with the building of their own forces; they must endeavour to knock out as many enemy troops as possible while fostering and developing their own forces. The motto must be: "*Our forces must grow after each battle, each offensive, each rush of activity.*" In this way only can we secure favourable conditions for complete victory over the enemy.

The US aggressors continually seek to annihilate and to weaken the revolutionary armed forces. But facts have proved that they are scared by the unusually swift expansion of our people's military and political forces...

...AS our armed forces are fully dedicated to a struggle for the people and the Fatherland and are always willing to keep the strictest discipline, they enjoy increasing love and affection from the people who care for them like their own sons. The militant solidarity between the armed forces and the people is on the upgrade. These can be no exhaustive list of deeds performed by the PLAF in the defence of the people's lives and property, in the protection and construction of revolutionary bases in various localities. In the course of sharp clashes with the enemy on different fronts, especially on the front against "pacification," the intimately coordinated actions between the armed forces and the people, and their mutual love and affection have inspired many epics and moving episodes. We realize all the more clearly that our armed forces are a real offspring of the people's revolutionary movement, and that all their moral and material strength stems from the people, and therefore the maintaining and constant strengthening of the bonds of solidarity between the armed forces and the people is vital for our PLAF.

We have also been constantly consolidating and developing our militant solidarity with the peoples of neighbouring Laos and Cambodia and with the world's peoples fighting against US imperialism. That is one of the fundamental factors of the rising strength of South Viet Nam's revolutionary war and of the PLAF, and one of the decisive factors of victory in the liberation war of all the three Indochinese countries.

OUR people and the two brotherly peoples of Laos and Cambodia are following up their big successes. The US imperialists have been losing in South Viet Nam and all over Indochina. But obdurate and warlike by nature, the Nixon administration are still hoping against hope for a military victory which would extricate them from the Viet Nam and Indochina quagmire from a "position of strength." In South Viet Nam they are still clinging to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troika of traitors, endeavouring to beef up the puppet army, striving hard to implement their "special pacification" program through unheard-of atrocities with a view to achieving their "Vietnamization" of the war now in a stage termed by them "crucial." They are stepping up their war of aggression against Laos and Cambodia in the vain hope of averting defeat. Against socialist North Viet Nam, they have been hurling unveiled war threats and indulging in provocative and sabotage activities as a prelude to new military adventures there.

It is crystal clear that though heavily and soundly beaten, the enemy are still trying their best to counter-attack and to carry on the conflict. US imperialist obduracy and savagery grows in proportion to its setbacks. Such squirms however are the death throes of a wild beast at bay. In this new stage, our fight is all the more complex and arduous. Our people and their armed forces still have to surmount many new difficulties in their way to complete victory.

Now more than ever before the military task of our anti-US patriotic effort requires from all our people and armed forces the greatest resolve to fight and to win and to make the most gruelling exertions. We must, in the flush of the successes already scored, continually raise the fighting strength of the armed forces, join forces with our fellow-countrymen in stepping up the offensives and uprisings in all the three strategic zones, deal stunning and devastating blows at the US and puppets, wipe out as much of their manpower and destroy as many of their war materials as possible, frustrate all their military plans, and "special pacification" program, cause the puppet army to disintegrate, and the puppet administration to topple, shatter all the enemy oppressive apparatus at grass-roots level and enlarge the areas in which the people again become their own masters. We should closely combine military and political actions, mount widespread offensives, create a new posture, a new relation of forces and a new physionomy of the war, cross the US imperialists' "Vietnamization" scheme, secure ever bigger and all-round successes and achieve final victory.

We pledge to concert our actions with the people and armed forces of North Viet Nam to balk all new frantic military adventures of the US directed against the North. We swear to fight on, shoulder to shoulder with the peoples and liberation armed forces of brotherly Laos and Cambodia, until the last US aggressor has been kicked out of the Indochinese peninsula.

The South Viet Nam PLAF vow to the Fatherland and to the people unshakeable resolve to fight and to win — and to translate into deeds Uncle Ho's teaching: "We should fight on until not a single Yankee aggressor is left on our soil."

For the country's independence and freedom, let our people and armed forces march towards victory!

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Animated by the offensive revolutionary spirit, the PLAF created the art of offensive in any situation and in all circumstances.

RSVN PRG FIRST 1971 COMMUNIQUE

THE Council of Ministers of the Republic of South Viet Nam has held its new-year session under the chairmanship of President Huynh Tan Phat to review the situation in the last year, discuss and lay down new tasks for continuing and stepping up the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, of the South Vietnamese people in the days ahead.

The meeting heard reports on the fight against the enemy pacification program, on the PLAF activities on all battlefields, and on the movement of the people of all strata in the South Vietnamese cities.

The Government assessed the developments in South Viet Nam in 1970 and concluded that the military and political gains recorded by the South Vietnamese people and liberation armed forces in country and town last year were of a very basic and major significance.

However the US imperialists remain very stubborn and perfidious: In spite of their bitter setbacks and difficulties on the battlefront and right in the United States, the Nixon administration is still reluctant to give up its aggressive design against our country. Last year, it feverishly carried out its pacification program to implement "Vietnamization" which is essentially aimed at prolonging its war of aggression. It committed extremely serious acts of war against the North of our country. It threw its troops into an invasion of Cambodia and recently deployed Saigon puppet troops and Thai troops into an aggressive operation in Laos masterminded by the US and with the participation of US troops.

But all these reckless manœuvres and acts have failed to extricate the US and their henchmen from their predicament, instead have aggravated their setbacks and impasse.

Unflinching before difficulties and the fierceness of the fighting, realizing clearly the cruel nature of the enemy, our fellow-countrymen in the plains and mountainous regions have resolutely and valiantly resisted all actions of the enemy, from their sweeps, forcible relocation and conscription, to the "open arm" policy. Our people have strengthened their unity and mutual assistance in their everyday life, in their fight and production steadfastly clung to their fields and gardens to maintain and boost up production, develop guerilla warfare to punish wicked enemy agents and other coercive forces of the enemy.

Our armed forces of all three kinds have upheld their determination to fight and to win, wiped out big chunks of the adverse manpower and war means, actively and fruitfully supported the political struggle of the population against the "pacification" program.

Especially, last year incensed by "Vietnamization," our people of all walks of life in the towns rose up in a vigorous, sustained and widespread drive never seen before against heavy taxes, persecution and repression, depraved culture and social evils and for the right to live, peace and democratic freedoms. This action has drawn in people of all strata from workers and other labouring people, students and pupils, youths and women, to intellectuals, teachers, journalists, clergymen, priests, capitalists, war invalids, orphans and even a number of personalities in the puppet administration and army, and become a broad front for peace, for the quick withdrawal of US troops, an end to the US war of aggression, the discard of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta and setting up of a broad and democratic national coalition government.

The Council of Ministers of the RSVN warmly praised our fellow-countrymen, combatants and cadres on all battlefronts who, united as one man, overcame all difficulties, fought with extraordinary heroism and splendid success.

It indignantly condemned the US aggressors who in disregard of progressive public opinion in the world, obstinately refused to put an end to its unjust war in South Viet Nam, instead has spread the flame of war to the whole of Indochina.

It highly valued the solidarity binding the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in the resolute common fight to drive out the US aggressors from the Indochinese peninsula.

The world's peoples have seen ever more clearly the bellicose features of the US government, hence have reserved for the persistent and valiant fight of our people and the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos their warmest feelings and their devoted moral and material assistance.

The American people's movement to support the legitimate effort of our people and the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos against the war of aggression of US imperialism in South Viet Nam and the Indochinese peninsula, and to condemn most vigorously the Nixon administration for having pushed the United States into the nightmare of "war and dissension," "crime and inflation," has gained in strength and size with every passing day.

On this occasion, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of South Viet Nam wished to convey its sincere thanks to the peoples and governments of the friendly countries and to the American people for their wholehearted support for the anti-US resistance of the South Viet Nam people.

Basing itself on the victories already recorded, in the spirit of "preferring every sacrifice to foreign rule and servitude," and in implementation of the supreme wishes of the great President Ho Chi Minh, the hero of our entire Vietnamese nation, the Council of Ministers has set the following immediate tasks:

Make every endeavour to mobilize the entire people and armed forces of South Viet Nam into the greatest exertions, to persist in and step up the resistance, uphold the determination to fight and to win, to wipe out and decimate much more manpower and war equipment of the US and puppets, firmly maintain and develop the mass movement in the countryside and the towns, resolutely defeat "Vietnamization," extensively broaden the united front against US aggression for national salvation, increase our force in all fields and advance toward new and still greater successes.

No brutal and perfidious scheme and no reactionary force can shake our people's determination to liberate the South and reunify the country. **Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. So long as there is an aggressor left in our country, our people will continue their fight to sweep him away.** Such is the behest of President Ho Chi Minh, also the iron-like determination of our people...

Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. The South Viet Nam people express their profound and sincere gratitude to their Northern kindred who have spared no sacrifice and no effort to wholeheartedly assist the South Viet Nam people and armed forces in their fight. The South Viet Nam people and armed forces once again pledge to their Northern kith and kin that for every one of the reckless assaults of the US aggressors against the North, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces will return a riposte five or ten times harder in order to drive out the US imperialists out of South Viet Nam and defend the beloved North.

At this session the Council of Ministers severely stigmatized the US imperialists and their Thieu-Ky-Khiem henchmen's criminal scheme to rob and abolish the right to land ownership which the peasants in South Viet Nam have wrested back from the colonialists, feudalists and tyrannical landowners through bitter struggles all along the past several decades since the 1945 August Revolution.

Contrasting it with the judicious land policy of the National Front for Liberation and the PRG Government, the Council of Ministers of the RSVN declared its condemnation of the phoney and ultra-reactionary "land reform law" of the Saigon puppet administration. The PRG Government called on the peasants to remain vigilant, unite and help one another and wage a resolute resistance against this farce of the Saigon puppet administration. Once again the PRG declared its recognition and defence of the right to ownership of the peasants, de jure and de facto, over the lands distributed them by revolution during the past resistance against the French colonialists as well as in the present resistance against the US aggression...

The townspeople rise up in a vigorous, sustained and widespread drive against the US aggressors and their henchmen Thieu-Ky-Khiem

In our liberated zone:

Cultural and educational achievements

EARLY in 1971, the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam awarded certificates of merit to the offices of Information and Culture of My Tho, Ben Tre and Go Cong provinces and on the *Giai Phong Press Agency* Branch of Central Trung Bo. It gave reward testimonials to the Information and Culture Bureaus of Mo Cay, Giong Trom and Thanh Phu districts, the provincial capital, the Art, Information and Culture Bureau of Giong Trom (Ben Tre province), the Ben Tre *Giai Phong Press Agency* Bureau, the Song and Dance Ensemble of Dong Thap, the Morse cast section of the *Giai Phong Press Agency* Branch of Central Nam Bo and the News editing section of the Tra Vinh gazette.

Also early this year, the Western Nam Bo School for Assistant Doctors held a graduation ceremony for 40 students. The Ca Mau military medical school had all their students graduated.

Classes of 1st-degree general education of complementary education and pre-school classes of Quang Da province kept functioning in spite of stepped-up US attacks on the free zone and of heavy floods. People just out of US-puppet concentration camps started organizing popular classes and general education schools. Schools in the free zones even drew hundreds of children coming from enemy-controlled Da Nang City. In Quang Da province, an additional 100 teachers were trained. 1st-degree general education and ABC text-books were printed and a number of complementary education classes were opened for the province's cadres.

In defiance of fierce actions by the US and puppets, the Office of Information and Culture of Can Tho province continued operating to help the people's fight against the enemy "pacification." Printers doubled the volume of their work compared with last year in printing news bulletins, newspapers, leaflets, etc.

Song and dance ensembles, and projection teams of Can Tho provinces performed for 30,000 attendances including civilians and troops of liberated areas and areas bordering on the occupied cities; their activity contributed to impulsing the local art and literary movement. In 1970 the Can Tho Information and Culture Office ran classes for more than 200 grass-roots cadres for the province. Educational activities were maintained with the number of schools totalling 20, that of general education pupils 600 and that of cadres and armymen regularly attending complementary education classes 700.

SOUTH VIET NAM

REPEATED ASSAULTS ON US-PUPPETS

IN NORTH QUANG TRI

While bogged down in South Laos, the US and puppet troops came under continuous fire from the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces in the northern part of Quang Tri province, especially the areas along Highway number 9. The field CPs of the Paratroop Division, Saigon divisions in Dong Ha, Hill 241, Ta Con, logistic bases of the Brigade One, the US 5th Motorized Infantry Division along Highway number 9 and Khe Sanh were heavily battered. The enemy transport centre in Sa Muu sector was on five occasions (February 7 to 14) hit by the PLAF artillery with heavy losses: nearly 200 GIs, more than 60 military vehicles of various kinds and many aircraft and cannons wiped out. The military storage area was violently attacked: 12 ammunition and petrol depots were ablaze for 8 consecutive hours. Convoys of enemy military vehicles were quickly put out of action on Highway number 9. Dozens of naval craft were sunk on the Cua Viet river mouth—Dong Ha waterway. Many aircraft of various kinds were shot down or destroyed on that battlefield.

According to still incomplete figures, in the first 20 days of February 1971, the PLAF in the Khe Sanh—North Quang Tri battlefront wiped out 1,500 enemy troops including nearly 900 GIs, brought down or wrecked nearly 50 aircraft, sent to the bottom 12 military cargo boats, destroyed more than 150 military vehicles, one third of them tanks and other armoured cars.

IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO

In close co-ordination with other battlefields, the PLAF in Central Trung Bo continually assaulted the enemy in the three regions from the delta of Central Trung Bo to the mountain region in the High Plateaux.

In the first 10 days of February 1971 alone, the PLAF in Central Trung Bo fought hundreds of battles big or small, struck at the enemy in 19 cities and province or district capitals such as Da Nang, Hoi An, Qui Nhon..., assailed 6 airports, 2 military bases and 61 "strategic hamlets." More than 4,500 US, puppet and mercenary casualties were inflicted including over 100 men of the main coercive force, and two province deputy-chiefs of Quang Nam and Binh Dinh and the district head of Dien Ban. 24 aircraft were knocked down, 105 military vehicles, 5 trains and dozens of wagons loaded with military goods were blown up.

People rose up to level many "strategic hamlets" and concentration camps including 8 big concentration centres in Quang Nam and Binh Dinh. Tens of thousands of internees returned to the liberated zone or wrested back control over many localities.

IN THE MEKONG DELTA

Guerilla warfare has been continuously spreading in several provinces in the Mekong Delta, which forced the enemy to send reinforcements to all places. Many dislodgement operations and big or small raids conducted by American and puppet troops were intercepted with serious losses for the assailants.

Following initial reports, in the first half of February, the enemy suffered over 180 casualties in 5 provinces in West Nam Bo.

Many CPs and military sub-sectors were repeatedly hit by the PLAF heavy guns. The bombardment of the CP of puppet Regiment 14, Division 9 on the night of February 11 cost the enemy nearly 50 men including 8 American advisers and 15 Saigon officers.

The wave of uprisings to regain their right to land ownership in enemy controlled areas has been going on in all parts in co-ordination with the urban people's mounting protest against the US-puppet military adventure aggressive in Laos in the past few weeks.

In North Quang Tri:

40 US-puppet aircraft downed in 10 days

According to still incomplete figures, 40 *US-puppet aircraft have been shot down and destroyed* in the Northern part of Quang Tri province on Highway No 9, in the 10 days of February (from 10 to 19):

- **On Feb. 10: 11 aircraft including 1 commander-plane in Lang Vay area (Khe Sanh sector)**
- **Feb. 11: 10 in Khe Soc area**
- **Feb. 14: 6 in Tan Lam sector**
- **Feb. 15: 5 in Ta Con sector**
- **Feb. 16: 2 in Sa Muu sector**
- **Feb. 19: 6 in Lang Sen area, on Hill 500**

Convoy of US soldiers attacked and destroyed

AN ENEMY CONVOY WIPED OUT IN 30 MINUTES

ON Feb. 7 in their first engagement, officers and men of Section X of the PLAF knocked out an enemy convoy at Dau Mau — Tan Lam on Road No 9. On Feb. 11, preparing for their second action, they set their minds on an even bigger gain.

At nightfall, the shock group of young fighters set out in fine trim. They walked briskly through the hilly jungle, camouflaged under quivering leafages like a real forest in motion. As section X was proceeding to their regrouping place, enemy aircraft and artillery shelled wantonly, and US tanks and armoured cars out of panic let loose now and then a loud report, but their shootings all missed our nimble fighters.

Road No 9 now was in sight. Section X deployed like a fan and each batch of fighters was a sharp edge ready to cut into the enemy's lines. At 9 p.m. all the shock troops took up position close to the road. Tran Quang Hoa put in a star shell, then made a last-minute check of his men's preparations.

It was a moonlit night moist with dew. Oblivious of the cold, the PLAF men were spoiling for the fight. The shadow of a scout rushed from the road and reported: "An engine is roaring in."

An order was speedily given to his men by Hoa who soon returned to his commanding position. Suspense gripped everyone's heart. Our fighters now adjusted their outfit, now looked in the direction of Dau Mau burning with impatience.

One, two, three military vehicles... a wide space between them, but our fighters calmly waited. Hardly had the first of the convoy were soon followed by others. Now the vehicles followed one another very closely.

A flare shot up from the commanding position. In next to no time mines and anti-tank bullets exploded, overturning several enemy vehicles. The whole convoy had to stop right at the battleplace chosen by our fighters who now dashed forward. Using anti-tanks guns and hand-grenades, they set afire the convoy, and a road section was blazing with the shots and bursts. The surviving soldiers assigned to the protection of the vehicles tried to escape, screaming, but they were cut down by our fighters' machineguns. Aware of the PLAF attack, the third part of the convoy backed up, but it was halted by fighters Quyet, Hanh, Thao, Binh who ran after it, anti-tank guns in hand. The whole enemy convoy, fully loaded with supply, was thus wiped out in a very short time.

There came from Dong Ha two armed choppers on a rescue mission, but the men of Section X taking cover behind the enemy vehicles put them to flight with their violent fire. The US artillery positions at Tan Lam, Hill 241 and Hill 544 and some infantry groups of the enemy chose to remain silent so as not to draw our fighters' searing fire. We got complete control of the battlefield, chased out the survivors and blew up all the remaining vehicles with hand-grenades.

The Feb. 11 knocking out by the PLAF Section X of 16 adverse military vehicles and 40 GIs in 30 minutes, added another feat to the glorious record of the fighters on Road No 9 whose motto was "Each strike hits home!"

A Most Arrogant Claim

on the part of a pirate

The Foreign Ministry of the RSVN on February 21 published the statement concerning President Nixon's unveiled threat.
The statement said:

"US President Nixon's arrogating to himself the right to attack the DRVN and any other areas in Indochina to "protect" the US aggressive troops in South Viet Nam and demanding the Vietnamese people to abide by the principles laid down by the US, is a most arrogant claim in the part of a pirate, which bares the Nixon administration's extremely bellicose and cruel nature. It is also an insolent challenge to the Vietnamese people, to the other peoples of Indochina and peace-loving people in the world.

The US has been committing an aggression against South Viet Nam, shamelessly challenging the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and perpetrating countless crimes against the Viet Nam people. The Vietnamese people therefore have the sacred and inalienable right to push up their resistance against aggression. To safeguard the lives of American youths who have been sent by the US government to a useless death in South Viet Nam, the US must put an end to its aggression, pull out speedily and completely US troops from South Viet Nam without any conditions whatsoever.

The more the US drags on its aggressive war in South Viet Nam, intensifies and expands its war of aggression against the Indochinese countries, the greater its setbacks, the more serious its stalemate and the clearer its unavoidable total defeat. There has been not a shred of doubt about US bitter setbacks and heavy losses on the battlefields of South Viet Nam and Cambodia, its humiliating punishments at the hands of the army and people of Laos.

No threat, no brutality, no atrocious war means, no frenzied acts on the part of the Nixon administration could shake the iron-like determination of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces who are persisting in, and stepping up, their fight in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country. The South Vietnamese people never tolerate any war acts committed by the US against beloved North Viet Nam. For every blow the US gives to the latter, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces will return five or even ten. Side by side with the rest of the Vietnamese people and the peoples of Cambodia and Laos, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to kick all the US aggressors out of Indochina, to ensure complete independence and freedom for each country, and make an active contribution to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world."

from pillar...

(Continued from page 1)

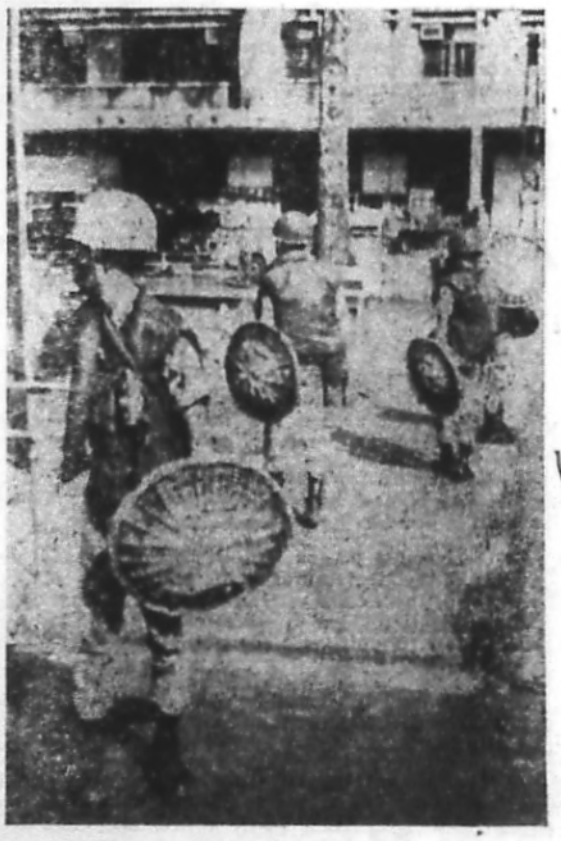
In three weeks, in North Quang Tri and Southern Laos the US-puppet losses ran to over 4,000 men put out of action, 170 planes—mostly helicopters—shot down, and more than 210 military vehicles, nearly half of which tanks and armoured cars.

Those losses have entangled the undertaking in a host of difficulties right in its initial phase. The enemy were unable to make use of the surprise factor that they had counted on, and instead met with surprises that they had not expected. That's what has upset their plan and shattered the morale of their men now forced to move at a snail's pace. The only unfavourable factor, the only kink to be speak of in the current operation on Laos is the very fact that Washington and Saigon themselves have landed their troops into a bog. Very clearly, the Nixon doctrine is facing a head-splitting challenge in the South of Laos. The strategic formula — mercenary ground troops + US artillery and air force — which has failed in South Viet Nam, is being put to a hard test there. Its fiasco is inevitable, as is the final failure of the American aggressors and their agents on all the battlefields of Indochina.

Some wonder how US-Saigon could invade Laos if they were really weakened, which query is similar to this: how can a fox crippled by beating and docked of its tail can enter the village and catch chickens? Stealing fowls is inherent in the nature of foxes just as aggression is in that of the American imperialists. Unmistakably, the latter have been drubbed; but, obdurate and bellicose by nature, they launch one operation after another in the hope to turn the tide. Nixon is behaving like a losing gambler who keeps on raising stakes to win the game, at any cost. Such a behaviour is not an indication of strength of the Americans and their Saigon valets in the three war theatres of Indochina. It is bound to aggravate their predicament. How can one speak of their strength and victory when they have to wriggle about to dodge their opponent's blows and ward off defeat? Little wonder that like a lamp flaring up before going out for lack of oil, the American invaders, ambitious to the extreme, have had to embark on mad actions in their last kicks.

Driven into an impasse, they have proved reckless and will have to pay a high price for it. They are being badly mauled not only in Southern Laos but in Cambodia and South Viet Nam — on all battlefields of Indochina. They are in a desperate position. The coordinated fight of the peoples and armed forces of the three countries of Indochina will surely end in triumph. All criminal and dangerous schemes of the Americans and their lackeys will be thwarted. All their reckless actions will bring on them lamentable reverses and ultimate total failure.

SOUTH VIET NAM in struggle



These puppet soldiers are mere mercenaries in Cambodia and Laos, and in their country. They serve as instrument of barbarous repression against the people

IN THE CITIES ★ IN THE CITIES

PRICES OF GOODS SOAR UP

THINGS have gone from bad to worse for the South Vietnamese urban people because of the spiralling of prices of several commodities to more than two times. The prise of rice in Quang Duc went up fourfold and that of petrol in Dalat tenfold.

Reporting on the situation the Saigon paper *Xay Dung* (Construction) said that the prices of goods in Dalat had shot up considerably. Petrol and oil were so scare that many filling stations had to close down, and several cars remained inactive. The cost of petrol had risen from 13 piastres (Saigon currency) to 90 piastres and then to 120 piastres a litre, and it was not easily available.

Other Saigon papers such as *Doc Lap* (Independence), *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion), *Saigon Moi* (New Saigon) reported that the price of each bag of 40 kilograms of rice had been up from 1,700 piastres to 6,700 or 7,000 piastres. Many rice depots in Quang Duc now were empty, and rice had become the dearest and scarcest commodity in the area.

In Hue, the situation was not brighter. The paper *Doc Lap* (Independence) made known that the local administration (puppet - *Ed.*) had shown its incapability to settle the shortage of petrol. Economy in the former imperial capital had been neglected and the better one knew the real life there the greater concern one felt.

Meanwhile, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, on US orders, sought to squeeze the people, especially by imposing very heavy taxes on the traders on the basis of their property. As a result, profit taxes had been raised tenfold or even twenty times in proportion to real profits. Therefore the traders were unable to pay these taxes, and 1,000 traders in Saigon had to return their licences to the Thieu administration in protest.

STRANGLING OF THE PRESS

TO suppress popular dissent, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta has been applying a drastic censorship to the press and has seized a series of newspapers under the charge of "violating press regulations."

On February 15, the Saigon paper *Chuong Viet* (Vietnamese Bell) was banned for criticisms of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem US-instigated invasion of Laos, with tens of thousands of troops. Some days before, the same paper had also been a victim to the same measure for objecting to US presence in South Viet Nam. A number of other papers such as *Dien Tin* (Express) had been similarly persecuted, once every two days, and once for 7 consecutive days (from February 10 to 16). Moreover, the puppet administration also prosecuted, or imposed heavy fines on, a series of papers. On January 14, *Tin Mat* (Secret News), *Tin Sang* (Morning News), *Saigon Moi* (New Saigon), *Phu Nu Tan Tien* (Advanced Women) were fined 200,000 piastres (Saigon currency) each for "breaches of the press regulations" and "articles hostile to the authorities." The weekly *Phu Nu Tan Tien* had to pay 300,000 piastres of fine and its editor-in-chief got a suspended sentence of 15 months of imprisonment.

CATHOLIC PRIESTS ALSO JAILED

ON February 19, Saigon tribunal sentenced Reverend Fathers Truong Ba Can and Chan Tin both to 9 months of imprisonment on charge of violating press regulations. This was a retaliatory measure against those who dare lay bare the regime's real nature. Reverend Father Chan Tin is the editor-in-chief of the magazine *Doi Dien* which ran an article by Reverend Father Truong Ba Can dealing with North Viet Nam. The same paper had been constantly threatened by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique and had once been banned for 5 consecutive months.

THREATENING STUDENTS

FOLLOWING the students' and pupils' protest against the murder of two children by the US aggressors at the Qui Nhon province capital on February 9, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique again tried to intimidate them on February 18.

According to reports by the Saigon Students' Union, the puppet administration planned to bring to trial 7 students for their alleged "subversive activities." But in the height of "anti-US turmoil" in Saigon, Qui Nhon and other cities, this fresh move of the fascist and traitorous Thieu triumvirate would only pour oil on the flame.

IN THE CITIES ★ IN THE CITIES

US intensification of oil exploration and exploitation in South VN denounced

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam has issued a statement denouncing the US scheme of plundering natural resources of South Viet Nam by intensifying exploration and exploitation of oil in South Viet Nam. The full text of the statement reads :

ALONG with its prolongation of the war of aggression in South Viet Nam the US administration has intensively pushed ahead its oil exploration in the South Viet Nam sea area. In service of this program, the Saigon puppet administration has surrendered vast areas of South Viet Nam territorial-waters to US oil corporations.

Recently, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration made public the so-called "011/70 Law" defining the regulations for oil exploration and exploitation in South Viet Nam and is preparing to "auction" to US firms the oil exploration and exploitation in South Viet Nam. This is nothing but an act to legalize the Nixon administration's criminal policy of plundering oil resources in South Viet Nam and to step up the carrying out of US neo-colonialism.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the authentic and legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people solemnly declares that :

All natural resources in South Viet Nam are sacred and inviolable property of the South Vietnamese people. The South Vietnamese people and their authentic and legitimate representative alone have the right to decide on the use of these natural resources.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam vehemently denounces the Nixon administration's intensification of its policy of plundering South Viet Nam oil resources and sternly condemns the Saigon puppet administration's surrendering natural resources of the country to the US. The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are determined to carry out all necessary measures to safeguard the natural resources in South Viet Nam and to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration is a tool for the US imperialists to perpetrate their aggression in South Viet Nam, to trample upon the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country, and to plunder the people's property. It has no right to represent the South Vietnamese people. Therefore any agreements signed between the Saigon puppet administration and whatever country, whatever foreign firm or organization have no value and is not binding to the South Vietnamese people and their authentic and legitimate representative.

The more the US imperialists and their lackeys step up their piratical and traitorous policy, the greater will be the hatred of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces who will push ahead their struggle to deal heavier blows at the enemy to win total victory for the sacred cause of liberating the South, defending the North and advancing to the peaceful reunification of the country.

ANTI-WAR CONFERENCE IN SIDNEY

AN Anti-war Conference was held in Sydney from February 16 to 22 on the initiative of the Australian Moratorium Committee, Australian sources said.

It was attended by representatives of anti-war movements from USA, France, India, Ceylon and of the World Peace Council.

At the opening session, the gathering was addressed by a letter from the Representative of the Republic of South Viet Nam (who was denied an entry visa) denouncing Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy as a move to prolong the war under a new formula : "Vietnamese blood instead of American blood."

Ex-US lieutenant Michael Ul gave an address about the US troops' atrocities against the South Viet Nam people that he had witnessed.

RSVN Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh cabled greetings to the Conference and deep thanks to the Australian peace fighters for their great efforts and contributions to the anti-war movement.

The Conference adopted the resolutions giving a strong impulsion to the movement of Australian people against the US aggressive war and urging the total withdrawal of US troops from Indochina.

US popular protest against US war expansion in Laos

AMERICANS' MOUNTING DISCONTENT

At the news of the US-Saigon aggression against Laos, anti-war students of Standford University immediately held a meeting, encircled the Faculty's gathering and smashed the university out-buildings in protest against Nixon's move.

In Washington, anti-Viet Nam war Americans assembled in front of the Saigon Embassy and US anti-war organizations urgently called on the American people to take part in actions against Nixon's war extension. A group of newspaper chief editors and representatives of a cross section of US society issued a strong statement against the US administration's invasion of Laos and war expansion in Indochina. The Massachussetts *Political Action for Peace* sent letters to the state's congressional delegation opposing the US invasion of Laos which is considered a danger to the USA and to the world. The conference of the *Traders for Peace in Viet Nam* held in Washington, the *Universities and Trade-Union Organizations' Coalition,"* recently set up in the US, also protested against US aggression in Laos and urged immediate withdrawal of American troops from Indochina. In New York, a group of American artists headed by Jane Fonda is to perform anti-Viet Nam war arts at 20 US military bases. The Students' Committees of Standford, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Berkeley Universities..." called for a general class boycott and demonstrations for a stop to the aggressive war in Indochina. Anti-Viet Nam war organizations of US students have been hectically preparing for a national convention in Washington to work out a concrete plan for stepped-up activities to halt Nixon's new war escalation.

Earlier, on February 4, a large crowd of American students and youths demonstrated in front of the Office of US Delegation to the UNO in New York, for the immediate withdrawal of American troops from South-East Asia.

On February 10, students in New York and Pennsylvania Universities went on strike, and big demonstrations by Americans from all walks of life and students against the US administration's widening of the aggressive war in Indochina erupted at the same time in several major cities such as Washington, New York, Boston, Baltimore, Berkeley, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, Ann Arbor...

In Washington, thousands of students streamed to the White House from various parts of the city, shouting angry slogans demanding immediate withdrawal of US troops from Indochina. In Ann Arbor, a meeting, the biggest ever in the city, took place in front of the Town Hall with the Mayor among the participants. In Boston and Seattle, marchers burned US flags, clashed violently with police deployed against them. In Berkeley, dissenting students demolished the headquarters of the US Atomic Energy Committee ; and students of Standford University continued protracted protest actions.

SHARP REACTION FROM POLITICAL CIRCLES

At the US Congress, 7 Democratic and Republican deputies tabled a draft law banning all expenditures for American ground activities in Laos, the sending there of US advisers and air and naval support to military activities in Laos. Senators McGovern and Jacob Javits also put forward draft bills for "an end to US involvement" in the aggression against the three Indochinese countries.

13 other American Congressmen said they would put to discussion the serious nature of the present situation in South-East Asia and the necessity to pull out quickly all American troops from Indochina.

Montana Senate adopted a resolution demanding Nixon's immediate announcement of a scheduled date for the US total withdrawal from South Viet Nam. Massachussetts lofty Attorney general Queen sent his complaint to the US Federal Tribunal President urging the latter to condemn the US government's undeclared war in Indochina as well as reaffirming the US citizens anti-war right in this war.

Many US Congressmen also criticized Nixon's policy :

Senator Mike Mansfield regarded the invasion of Laos as an act of war expansion in Indochina.

Senator Hughes stressed that Nixon had no intention to end the war. Reversely, he only pursued a single plan that is war escalation.

Senator Fulbright foretold that Nixon's present adventurous war policy would lead to the continued, unlimited prolongation of the US war in Indochina.

Senator Frank Church said that with the war extended to Laos the US would get ever more bogged down and unable to withdraw quickly from Indochina ... and that it was an issueless war.

Senator Muskie pointed out that only a schedule for the US troops' pull out from South-East Asia can help the US government avoid the ability of farther expansion of this war.

Senator McGovern denounced that Nixon had broken all his words to the Congress such as to strive to end the war in Indochina..., and that the American people were fed up with Nixon's honeyed words and empty promises.

Senators Cooper and Church urged Nixon and the US Congress to publish a statement reaffirming the US decision to bring back all American troops from South Viet Nam.

Senator Edwards Kennedy criticized Nixon's aggressive war and stressed : "Vietnamization is war, a larger war."

Senator Abner Mikva castigated Nixon's "Vietnamization" of the war as a "brazen deception."

Senator Edwards believed the general feeling in the US was that the Viet Nam war was a mistake and the US should pull out from this war as soon as possible.

Senator Bella Abzug called on the American people to send letters and messages to US senators and Nixon urging that the US government stop the aggressive war and immediately pull out American troops from Laos.

Meeting of Amsterdam people against the US aggressive war in Indochina

IN LAOS:

US aggressors and mercenaries severely punished

According to still incomplete statistics released by *KPL*, in the last days of February, the Lao people and armed forces wreaked heavy losses on the US aggressors and mercenaries: thousands of enemy troops were put out of action and more than a hundred aircraft shot down.

In Southern Laos: According to the second Communiqué of the Lao PLA Command, from February 8 to 24, 1971, the Lao PLA in Southern Laos wiped out and captured more than 3,000 enemy troops, written off or decimated 4 battalions and 15 companies of the Saigon puppet forces and Vientiane puppet army. More than 160 aircraft of various types were shot downed, a large number of military vehicles, and a big quantity of arms and equipments were destroyed.

The Lao patriotic forces badly mauled a company of Saigon commandos North-East of Ban Dong on February 18, 2 companies of Division One on Hill 517 on February 16 and 18, and a column of armoured vehicles West of Ban Dong on February 14.

Earlier from February 9 to 13, 5 other companies, a battalion of paratroops and the 21st Battalion of Rangers were depleted on Highway number 9 from Lao Bao to Ban Dong, North-East of Ban Dong, and in Cha Ki. At the same time, the PLA routed a unit of Vientiane troops on their way to Meung Pha Lan and knocked out a paratroop battalion, killing or capturing nearly 200 men. In addition, PLA heavy guns shelled an artillery position of the Saigon 3rd Brigade of paratroops in Cha Ki, a vehicle park and another artillery position in Ban Dong, destroying 3 guns of big calibre, numerous vehicles, tents and fortifications and whittling down a company. The number of US helicopters grounded in this period was brought to 120.

In Northern Laos: In the first half of February, the PLA in Northern Laos launched several attacks on enemy bases in the Sam Thong—Long Cheng region and regained control over a number of localities. On February 3, the Muong Sui — Phu So region was liberated with thousands of inhabitants freed from the enemy grip.

The Lao patriotic forces also assailed Pak U which is so near Vientiane that *UPI* reported that Communist (Pathet Lao) guns were in the surroundings of the capital of Laos.

In their February 14 attack on Long Cheng base — the den of Vang Pao "special forces" — almost all the positions in that base, especially the sectors of American and Thai "advisers," the CP of Vang Pao, Hills Vua and 1212, the Ban Na outpost etc., were heavily battered. A toll of nearly 500 enemy troops including numerous GIs and Thai mercenaries was taken, 8 arms depots containing 5,000 tons of bombs and shells erased, more than one million litres of gasoline set on fire and 3 helicopters shot down. The Lao patriotic forces also captured a large quantity of military equipment.

IN CAMBODIA:

2,500 enemy troops and 210 military vehicles put out of action

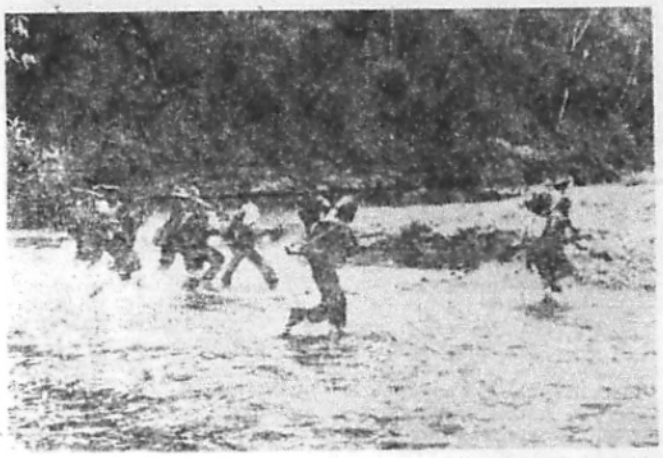
In the first half of February, the National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia inflicted more than 2,500 enemy casualties (2 battalions wiped out and 5 others decimated, and 3 columns of armoured cars put out of action). 210 military vehicles, including 140 armoured cars, and 17 guns were destroyed, and 13 aircraft, mostly helicopters, brought down.

In *Kompong Cham* province, from February 4 to 12, the Cambodian patriotic forces intercepted Saigon troops on Highway number 7 and depleted or wiped off several battalions among them the 31st, 36th, 38th and 52nd Battalions of Rangers, and blasted out of commission 128 military vehicles including more than 40 armoured cars.

In the meantime, in coordinated actions by guerillas and regional forces with the regular army, over 200 casualties were suffered by Saigon troops, who lost dozens of military vehicles and thousands of shells.

In *Kratie* province, the Cambodian NLAF launched a wave of devastating attacks. Especially in their assault on the Saigon 4th Battalion and a battalion of border-guards west of Snoul on February 8, 450 adverse troops were put out of action.

On Highway number 4 and on the Mekong river, the Cambodian patriotic forces repeatedly sealed off the traffic. On February 7 on Highway number 4, 17 military vehicles, 10 of them with soldiers on board, were destroyed, 2 helicopters downed, the 427th Battalion of Lon Nol troops decimated and a large amount of arms captured. On February 10, on the Mekong river from Neak Luong to Phnom Penh, the Cambodian NLAF sank 7 of the 52 ships of the enemy fleet. According to *AKI*, on the night of February 3 and the following day, the Cambodian armed forces mounted another raid on Pochentong airport, destroying 6 aircraft and burning thousands of litres of gasoline.



A unit of the Lao PLA in pursuit of the enemy

US AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN SOUTHERN LAOS

According to still incomplete reports, in 20 days (February 5 to 25), **201 enemy aircraft** were shot down by PLA artillery in the Southern Laos on Highway No 9:

— Feb.	5 :	4
— —	7 :	10
— —	8 :	22 : at Phu Ko Bok
— —	10 :	42 : at Cha Ki, Ban Dong, Phu Ko Bok.
— —	11 :	10 : at Tam Luong
— —	12 :	1 : at S'bridge
— —	14 :	3 : at Cha Ki
— —	15 :	10 : at Phu Ko Bok
— —	16 :	13 : at La Tuong
— —	18 :	11 : at Ban Dong
— —	19 :	8 : at Ban Dong.
— —	20 :	16 : at Ban Dong' abroad
— —	21 :	8 : at South Ban Dong, La Tuong
— —	22 :	7 : at North Ban Dong
— —	23 : and 24 :	5 : at South Ban Dong
— —	25 :	31 : on Hills 655 and 456

UNIVERSAL INDIGNATION AT US WAR EXPANSION IN INDOCHINA

MILLIONS TAKE PART IN DEMONSTRATIONS

4,000,000 Chinese in *Peking* and 11 big cities in China such as *Canton, Tiensin, Nanking, Kunming* ... turned out into the streets against US invasion of Laos and war extension in Indochina.

More than 500,000 marchers in Peking, and hundreds of thousands of others, including South China borderguard units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Canton, Tiensin, Kunming angrily carried out such slogans as "Down with US Imperialists," "Resolute Protest Against US Imperialists and Lackeys' Aggression in Laos." ...

Hundreds of thousands of people in the *Soviet Union, Cuba,* the *German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia* held protest meetings. A "social tribunal" was set up in *Bulgaria* against US war crimes committed in the three Indochinese countries.

BONZES ALSO JOIN IN ANTI-NIXON MARCHES

Ceylonese monks staged protest sit-ins for several hours in front of the US Embassy in *Colombo*. Hundreds of demonstrating bonzes and students assaulted it.

Broad masses of *Pakistani* paraded in front of the US Information Hall in *Dakar*, burned an effigy of Nixon and demanded immediate withdrawal of American troops from Indochina.

OUTBURSTS SPREAD FROM NORTHERN EUROPE, CANADA...

15 organizations in support of Viet Nam in *Norway* held a big demonstration in *Oslo*. The marchers gathered in front of the US Embassy and the "Information Hall" of the Saigon administration and set fire to US and Saigon flags. People in Tronheim called a meeting and adopted a resolution scoring US aggression in Laos, demanding the severance of diplomatic relations with Saigon and resolutely supporting the Indochinese peoples' just struggle.

In *Denmark* and *Sweden*, despite heavy rains, thousands of people besieged the US Embassies in the capitals of both countries, chanting the slogans: "US quit Indochina," "Support the NFL," "Support the Lao Patriotic Front"...

Canadians in *Montreal* and *Toronto* demonstrated in front of the US Consulates in both cities, pressing for the withdrawal of American troops and an end to the US aggressive war in Laos.

...TO WESTERN EUROPE

Meetings against US aggression in Laos and war expansion in Indochina were organized in several cities from South to North of *France*. Following the march by 50,000 Parisians, people from all walks of life in Lyon, Toulouse, Marseilles, Rouen ... took to the streets.

In *Paris*, the marchers twice smashed the Saigon puppet "Consulate General."

In *West Germany*, big demonstrations also broke out in Bonn and West Berlin. Thousands of *Dutch* and *Turkish youths* and *students* organized protest parades in front of the US Embassies in *Amsterdam* and *Ankara*.

THE PEN FIGHTERS

IN front of the 25-storey Habana Libre, the highest skycraper in the Cuban capital city, one could see a big poster — a pen, its holder and number 7—with the inscription: 7th Congress of IOJ (International Organization of Journalists). This was the first time since its foundation a quarter of a century ago that it held a regular session out of Europe, on the free "Red Island" of Latin America, next door to the United States (about 90 miles from Miami).

In doing so under the very nose of the enemy those who fight US imperialism with their pens have achieved a highly significant deed. Set up after World War II by progressive journalists who resisted fascism, IOJ addressed itself to the task of securing and strengthening national independence and social progress and defending peace.

For nearly one quarter of a century, it has been striving after this goal; it has actively supported the struggle of various peoples for national independence and has now become a staunch advocate and a vanguard fighter on the world's anti-imperialist front. In his political report, Jiri Kupka corroborated these facts when he recalled the many-sided activities of this organization. In its first days, the meeting received from many heads of state messages of congratulation expressing the conviction that its work will contribute further to the common cause of the world's peoples. Opening this 7th Congress, Raul Roa, Foreign Minister of the Cuban revolutionary government, called it the "Congress of Pen-Fighters." 326 delegates, 9 observers and guests and 336 journalists from 84 countries were attending. They came from Nicaragua, the heroic land of Auguste Cesar Sandino, the first guerilla in the world to have victoriously fought US imperialism, from Indochina where a shooting war is going on, from the gallant Arab countries, from Manolis Glezos' martyred Greece, from Oceania, from Africa where most frequently people are told thumping lies (instead of the truth), from North America, the den of the world policeman and the land where Angela David has been waging a stubborn battle. These 326 fighters who represented over 150,000 newsmen from the five continents belonged to various nationalities, spoke different languages and had various political leanings and creeds but united by the common "fight against imperialism" with every method and means.

US imperialism was in the dock. Each speech delivered at the Congress was a strong indictment against it. It was accused of spraying noxious chemicals against women and children in Viet Nam and Indochina, of using "the same war materials which had destroyed Vietnamese villages and killed their heroic people against the villages and peasants of Palestine and other Arab countries..." It has been economically blockading the "Red Island" for twelve years now, has lowered the price of cocoa so as to topple Ghana's President N'Krumah, and is dropping the prices of precious stones to bring pressure to bear on Sierra Leone. It is US imperialism which is carrying out the "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, has instigated fifteen coups d'etat in Africa over the last eight years, strengthened its control and oppression over Bolivia and involved this country in its dark design, caused bloodshed, anxiety and misgivings in many other countries "and has left no stone unturned to prevent the liberation of America." It is "trying to tilt the balance of forces in its favour so as to check socialism." Its nature is always the same, but like the chameleon, it changes its form from colonial exploitation to neo-colonialism, from assassination to military putsches, as the delegate from Sierra Leone remarked. That is why the congress was completely at one with Elsa Altunas from Uruguay when she said: "Imperialism is the arch enemy of all peoples, and we specifically refer to US imperialism which subjugates America and wishes to become the world policeman. To heroic Viet Nam, to her delegations—North and South—here present we pay a glowing tribute."

"IN my country, Paraguay," M. Nodre Mas said, "the democratic and anti-imperialist press is forbidden and prosecuted. The journalists who fight imperialism are jailed or sent to concentration camps, tortured or murdered." The same situation prevails in many parts of the world where imperialism backs the regimes in its pay such as South Viet Nam, South Korea, Greece, Morocco, Nicaragua, Madagascar, Guana, Bolivia... The French journalist Regis Debray has just been released by the Bolivian government, but how many other pressmen are still detained or tortured in Puerto Rico, Athena, Haiti, Guatemala?...

Mohamed Laarbi, a Moroccan journalist pointed out that in his country, the major problem was "freedom of the press"; a Nicaraguan delegate spoke of the "black law" which wreaks havoc among newsmen, prevents the free dissemination of thought in his country; a Malagasy journalist denounced the harshness of a "law on the press" which dates back to French colonialism but is still in force in Madagascar; W.J. Brown, from faraway Australia, underlined that his country "is a vantage ground where imperialistic propaganda can make use of the huge US-manipulated mass media." Fighting against the same foe and for the same goal as the journalists, Lazaro Peña, WFTU delegate, said that imperialism requires that "a journalist betrays all things objective and true," wants to dishonour him, deprive him of a principle, and set him against his people and all the peoples in the world.

THE assembly held heated debates on the journalistic task at the present intricate world juncture. Well aware of their mission, all the delegates, honest journalists in the world, unanimously pledged that "we don't twiddle our thumbs when the imperialists are making use of an abundant ideological arsenal, when the newspaper magnates are resorting to the most up-to-date means to spread lies, misleading untruths, political and moral corruption and the degradation of the broad masses."

The attendance gave a warm reception to Janet Jagan from Guyana when she said: "We, journalists in the world, have the task of unmasking the enemy by baring his objectives and practices, working for the unity of the anti-imperialist forces, helping friends and denouncing the adversary of progress." Nodre Mas, from Paraguay, asked this question: "Is the journalists' mission simply informative or combative?" and he supplied the answer himself: "By observing international developments, no doubt is possible on this question... Militant journalism, as conceived by Lenin and Jose Marti, and practised by Fucik, is now part and parcel of the daily life. It is present in the persevering and heroic action of those who wield the pen as a weapon." To the same questions, Janet Jagan replied: "Perhaps the pen is not a powerful weapon like the gun but it continues to be a most vital weapon in the armoury of all who fight imperialism."

The Habana Libre *in the night.*

THE Congress also devoted much time and energy to the Indochinese peoples' anti-imperialist struggle. It was with rapt attention that it heard the speeches delivered by the four delegations from the three Indochinese countries. With a thundering ovation, the delegates expressed their appreciation and support to the fighters of independence, freedom and peace in Indochina.

The meeting also adopted a series of documents including a special resolution in support of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. In this resolution, it hailed the heroism, courage and fighting spirit of the three Indochinese peoples and was deeply convinced that their effort would be crowned with success in the end. It appointed a 50-member executive committee of which our comrade Tan Duc — President of our Democratic Patriotic Journalists' Association — became a Vice President.

What we requested the international press in thit forum to do was to inform public opinion abous our resistance, to expose the cruelty and perfidy of US imperialism, to bring home to the world's peoples that by stepping up the war, US imperialism is on the wane and is heading for its doom; and this enemy number one of mankind is likely to be clobbered at any other front in the world. To this request, the 7th IOJ Congress responded enthusiastically. Once again we voice here the gratitude of the patriotic and democratic journalists in South Viet Nam and at the same time pledge ourselves to be equal to the support and solidarity of honest journalists, those who fight with their pens, all over the world.

The success of the Congress and its staunch support to the Indochinese peoples could not be dissociated from the role played by Cuba, from the Cuban journalists, the disciples of Jose Marti, and from the concern of the Cuban leaders. Apart from the presence and the two stirring speeches delivered by Raul Roa at the opening session and Carlos Rafael at the closing one, the delegates to the 7th IOJ Congress still keep vivid in their minds their meetings with President Dorticos and Premier Fidel Castro.

In his interview with the Indochinese journalists, Premier Fidel Castro said: "With your struggle, the Indochinese peoples have done a lot for mankind. The Cuban people make it a duty to support you."

Now far from the "Red Island" where the sugar cane harvest is in full swing, the South Vietnamese journalists returning from the Congress wish to tell their Cuban friends:

"Thanks, many thanks to you for your unstinted support to the resistance of the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples, for all that you have done for the success of the 7th IOJ Congress."

HUYNH VAN LY

Deputy-Head of the Delegation of the South Viet Nam Democratic Patriotic Journalists' Association to the 7th IOJ Congress.

General view of the 7th IOJ Congress.